

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 3, amend claims 1, 4, 12, and 14, and add claim 15 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A feeding and aspirating tube assembly comprising:

a first outer aspirating tube; and

a second inner feeding tube;

wherein;

the second inner feeding tube is removably disposed inside the first outer aspirating tube; and

in an assembled state, a distal end of the inner tube is in a range from approximately 2 cm to approximately 4 cm from a distal end of the outer tube.

Claim 2. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer tube fits loosely around the inner tube to permit aspiration while the inner tube is disposed inside the outer tube.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one feeding tube opening in the inner tube; and

wherein the at least one feeding tube opening is located in a range from approximately ½ cm to approximately 3 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.

Claim 5. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of feeding tube openings including the at least one feeding tube opening, wherein a most distal one of the feeding tube openings is in a range from approximately 2 cm to approximately 3 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.

Claim 6. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of feeding tube openings including the at least one feeding tube opening, wherein a most proximal one of the feeding tube openings is located in a range from approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cm to approximately 2 cm from the distal end of the outer tube.

Claim 7. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein:

the outer tube further comprises an external end; and

the external end of the outer tube has a plurality of input branches.

Claim 8. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 7, wherein the inner tube further comprises an external end having an adapter that seals a selected one of the input branches and provides an input opening of the inner tube external to the selected branch.

Claim 9. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 8, wherein the input opening of the inner tube fluidly connects an exterior of the assembly with a rest of the inner tube through the selected branch.

Claim 10. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of the inner tube is in a range from approximately 1 mm to approximately 3 mm.

Claim 11. (Original) The feeding tube assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of the outer tube is in a range from approximately 3 mm to approximately 6 mm.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method of feeding and aspirating comprising:

inserting an inner tube through an outer tube;

sealing an external end of the inner tube relative an external end of the outer tube;

placing the combination inner tube and outer tube in the jejunum of a patient so that each of an internal end of the inner tube and an internal end of the outer tube are positioned in the jejunum;

feeding from externally of the patient through the inner tube to the jejunum of the patient; and
aspirating from the jejunum through the outer tube.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of feeding and aspirating of claim 12, wherein:

the step of feeding comprises feeding for a first predetermined period of time after an operation;

the method of feeding and aspirating further comprises:

removing the inner tube from the outer tube after the first predetermined period of time; and

feeding through one of the outer tube and another separate feeding tube.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The method of feeding and aspirating of claim 12 wherein:

the step of feeding further comprises feeding for a first predetermined period of time after an operation;

the method of feeding and aspirating further comprises:

removing the inner tube from the outer tube after the first predetermined period of time; and

at least one of feeding and aspirating through the outer tube after the first predetermined period of time.

Claim 15. (New) A tube assembly for jejunal feeding and jejunal aspirating, the tube assembly comprising:

_____ a first outer jejunal aspirating tube; and

_____ a second inner jejunal feeding tube;

_____ wherein the second inner jejunal feeding tube is removably disposed inside the first outer jejunal aspirating tube.